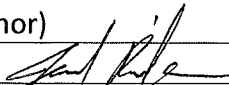


**Region 9 Enforcement Division
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
INSPECTION REPORT**

Inspection Date:	12/10/2015		
Time:	Entry: 8:00 a.m.	Exit: 11:00 a.m.	
Media:	Water		
Regulatory Program:	CWA NPDES/Industrial Storm Water		
Company Name:	Western States Packaging		
Facility or Site Name:	Western States Packaging		
Facility/Site Physical Location:	13276 Paxton Street		
(city, state, zip code)	Pacoima, CA 91331		
Geographic Coordinates:	34°16'35.91"N, 118°25'18.03"W		
Facility/Site Contact:	Dinh Nguyen	QA Manager	
	818-686-6045		
County:	Los Angeles County		
Company Contact:	Mark Pickrell	Vice President/CEO	
	818-686-6045		
Facility/Site Identifier:	CA WDID#: 4 1NEC000249		
NPDES Number:	CAS000001		
SWRCB Order Number:	2014-0057-DWQ		
SIC Code:	3089 – Plastics Products, Not Elsewhere Classified		
Facility/Site Personnel Participating in Inspection:			
Dinh Nguyen	QA Manager		
Inspector(s):			
Jared Richardson (Lead & Report Author)	PG Environmental, LLC	US EPA Contract Inspector	303-279-1778
Signature: 	Date: 1-20-2016		
Daniel Haskell	US EPA Region 9 Mail Code Enf-3-2	Inspector	415-972-3168
Supervisor Review:			
Signature:		Date:	

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Inspection

On December 10, 2015, Jared Richardson, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Contract Inspector and EPA Storm Water Enforcement Program staff, Daniel Haskell, EPA Inspector conducted an industrial storm water inspection of Western States Packaging, (Western States Packaging or the Facility). The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with the requirements of the *California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), General Permit No. CAS000001* for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities (the Permit). Specifically, we evaluated Western States Packaging's compliance with the No Exposure Certification (NEC) conditional exclusion requirements outlined in Section XVII and Attachment 2 of the Permit for which the Facility was covered under. The unannounced inspection consisted of two parts, a records review and a general Facility walk-through.

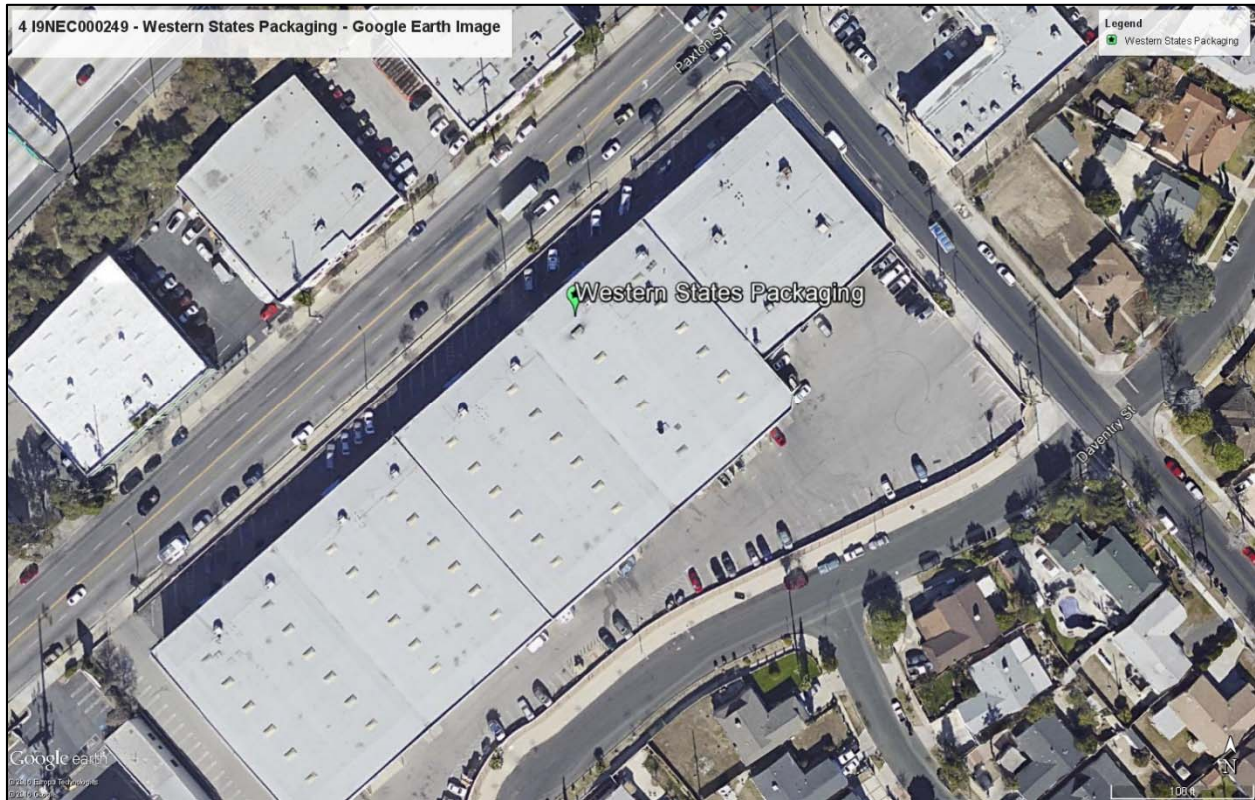
Opening Conference

Upon arriving at the Facility at 8:00 a.m. on December 10, 2015, we met with Mr. Dinh Nguyen (QA Manager, Western States Packaging). I presented my credential, and explained the purpose of the inspection. Mr. Nguyen was not explicitly familiar with the Permit or requirements, at the time of the inspection. As a result, he proceeded to contact via phone Mr. Mark Pickrell (Vice President/CEO, Western States Packaging) at approximately 9:18 a.m., who was out of town on business at the time of the inspection, but was supposedly more familiar with the Permit and requirements. We spoke with Mr. Pickrell directly on the phone and explained the purpose of the inspection and the records request. Mr. Pickrell stated that the permit required documents were in a locked office and not readily available for review at the time of the inspection due to his absence. Mr. Pickrell also stated that Western States Packaging had implemented 1mm mesh screens over the three storm drain inlets (DP-1, DP-2, and DP-3) located south of the Facility building in the customer/employee parking area (Photograph 2). He stated that specific staff had been trained/assigned for unloading of raw materials (plastic resin pellets) and that no spills or releases had occurred during raw materials unloading transfer operations.

Facility/Site Description

As provided by the Facility Contact, the Western States Packaging Facility (refer to Photograph 1) has been in business since 1994 manufacturing polyethylene bags for the food and nonfood industries. The company specializes in the production of precision bags for high speed automated inserting bag-in-box equipment and bags for hand pack operations. The corporate offices and manufacturing plant are located in Pacoima, California. The company's distribution network covers the entire United States. Refer to the *Google Earth* imagery below (Image A).

Image A: Google Earth image of Facility
13276 Paxton Street, Pacoima, CA 91331



SECTION II – OBSERVATIONS

Following the opening conference and phone conversation with Mr. Pickrell, we conducted a Facility walk-through with the Mr. Nguyen. We observed the Facility shipping/receiving areas for raw materials and finished products located on the south side of the Facility building, during the course of the inspection. Based on the Facility walk-through we observed that all manufacturing and equipment was conducted and located indoors within the confines of the building (i.e., storm-resistant shelter). The indoor manufacturing process was not evaluated as a component of the inspection due to it not being exposed to storm water. We observed the shipping/receiving areas located on the south side of the building at bays 13280A, 13280B, 13276A, 13274A, and 13274B (refer to Photograph 3). Additionally, we observed the trash and waste dumpster area (refer to Photographs 4 and 14) just south of bay 13280A. All storm water runoff flow from the shipping/receiving areas of the Facility appeared to flow downgradient through the Facility customer/employee parking lot to one of three storm drain inlets (DP-1, DP-2, and DP-3) and subsequently discharging offsite onto Daventry Street (refer to Photograph 5), located south of the Facility.

We observed that Western States Packaging had exposure of industrial materials (plastic resin pellets) to storm water and storm water runoff on the south side of the Facility building area. Specifically, the we observed raw materials (plastic resin pellets) at the following areas of the Facility: a) scattered about the impervious surfaces of the Facility and adjacent to and downgradient of the unloading hose connection transfer areas for raw materials (plastic resin pellets) (Photographs 6 through 9), b) adjacent to the Facility bay doors (Photographs 10 through 13), c) adjacent to and within the uncovered trash and waste dumpster (Photographs 14 through 18), and d) directly adjacent to the Facility storm drain inlets (Photographs 19 through 21).

At the time of the inspection, it was unclear whether or not Western States Packaging had conducted an annual NEC evaluation of the by October 1, 2015 as required by Section XVII.G of the Permit. As stated previously not all permit required records were readily available for review at the time of the inspection.

SWPPP Implementation – Minimum Required BMPs (Section X.H.1)

	Yes/No	Comments
Good Housekeeping	Not Applicable (NA)	
Preventative maintenance	NA	
Spill response	NA	
Material handling and waste management	NA	
Erosion and sediment controls	NA	
Employee Training	NA	
Quality assurance and recordkeeping	NA	

SWPPP Implementation – Advanced Minimum Required BMPs (Section X.H.2)

	Yes/No	Comments
Advanced BMPs implemented at facility?	NA	
Exposure minimization BMPs	NA	
Containment and discharge reduction BMPs	NA	
Treatment Control BMPs	NA	
Other advanced BMPs	NA	

STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN REVIEW

General Permit Section

	Yes/No	Comments
Signed Certification	Not Reviewed (NR)	Western States Packaging did not maintain a copy of the NEC certification or NEC evaluation checklist readily available for review onsite at the time of the inspection.
Pollution Prevention Team	NA	
Existing Facility Plans	NR	

Site Map(s) Section X.E

	Yes/No	Comments
Facility boundaries	No	We observed that the Facility boundary was not clearly identified on the site map.

Drainage areas	No	We observed that drainage area and drainage areas impacted by surrounding dischargers were not identified on the site map.
Direction of flow	Yes	
On-facility water bodies	NA	
Areas of soil erosion	NA	The Facility was 100 percent impervious.
Nearby water bodies	NA	
Municipal storm drain inlets	No	We observed that the municipal storm water conveyances and drains which may receive Facility discharges were not identified on the site map.
Points of discharge	Yes	DP-1, DP-2, and DP-3, which subsequently discharge to Daventry Street (Photograph 5)
Sampling locations	Yes	
Structural control measures	NA	
Impervious areas	No	We observed that the impervious areas of the Facility (100 percent impervious) were not identified on the site map.
Location of directly exposed materials	NA	
Locations of significant leaks and spills	NA	
Areas of industrial activity	No	We observed that the unloading area of raw materials (plastic resin pellets) (Photograph 3 and 6) and trash and waste dumpster area (Photographs 4 and 14) were not identified on the Site Map.
Storage areas / storage tanks	NA	
Shipping and receiving areas	Yes	
Fueling areas	NA	
Vehicle and equipment storage/maintenance areas	NA	
Material handling/processing areas	No	We observed that the finished goods handling area (bay 13274A and 13274B, which appeared to have been recently acquired by Western States Packaging was not identified on the site map.

Waste treatment/disposal areas	No	We observed that the trash and waste dumpster area located south of the Facility was not identified on the site map (Photographs 4 and 14).
Dust or particulate generation areas	NA	
Cleaning and material reuse areas	NA	
Other areas of industrial activities	NA	

List of Industrial Materials (Section X.F)

	Quantity handled / per X (i.e. frequency)	Comments
Industrial Material(s) / Storage Location	NA	
Industrial Material(s) / Shipping & Receiving Location	NA	
Industrial Material(s) / Handling Location	NA	

Potential Pollution Sources (Section X.G.1)

	Yes/No	Comments
Industrial processes	NA	
Material handling and storage areas	NA	
Dust and particulate generating activities	NA	
Significant leaks and spills	NA	
Non-storm water discharges	NA	
Erodible surfaces	NA	

Assessment of Potential Pollutant Sources (Section X.G.2)

	Yes/No	Comments
Narrative assessment of likely sources of pollutants	NA	
Narrative assessment of likely pollutants present in storm water discharges	NA	
Identification of additional BMPs	NA	
Identification of drainage areas with no exposure	NA	
Identification of additional parameters	NA	

Monitoring Implementation Plan (Section X.I)

	Yes/No	Comments
Team Members assigned to conduct the monitoring	NA	
Summary of visual observation procedures and locations	NA	
Justification if applicable for: alt discharge locations; representative sampling reduction; or qualified combined samples	NA	
Procedures for field instrument calibration	NA	
Example of chain of custody	NA	

Special Requirements – Plastic Materials (Section XVIII)

	Yes/No	Comments
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Containment systems or alternate BMPs	NA	
Durable sealed containers at loading / unloading / transfer/ storage areas	NA	
Form of secondary containment at loading / unloading / transfer / storage areas	NA	
Vacuum system(s) available?	NA	
Containment system or alternative for plastics materials < 1mm in size	NA	

SECTION III – AREAS OF CONCERN

We held a closing conference at the conclusion of the inspection. During the closing conference, we reviewed the preliminary inspection observations and areas of concern with Mr. Nguyen. The presentation of areas of concern does not constitute a formal compliance determination or violation.

1. We observed at the time of the inspection, that Western states Packaging had exposure of industrial materials (plastic resin pellets) to storm water and storm water runoff on the south side of the Facility building area which did not appear to meet the conditional exclusion of “no exposure”. Specifically, the we observed raw materials (plastic resin pellets) at the following areas of the Facility: a) scattered about the impervious surfaces of the Facility and adjacent to and downgradient of the unloading hose connection transfer areas for raw materials (plastic resin pellets) (Photographs 6 through 9), b) adjacent to the Facility bay doors (Photographs 10 through 13), c) adjacent to and within the uncovered trash and waste dumpster (Photographs 14 through 18), and d) directly adjacent to the Facility storm drain inlets (Photographs 19 through 21). It should be noted that during our phone conversation with Mr. Pickrell, he stated that specific staff had been trained/assigned for unloading of raw materials (plastic resin pellets) and that no spills or releases had occurred during raw materials unloading transfer operations; however, this did not appear to be completely accurate at the time of the inspection. Section XVII, Condition Exclusion – No Exposure Certification (NEC) of the Permit requires “Discharges to be composed entirely of storm water that has not been exposed to industrial activity...” and “There is no exposure of Industrial Materials and Activities to

rain, snow, snowmelt, and/or runoff.” Based on the Facility observations at the time of the inspection it did not appear that Western States Packaging fully met the conditional exclusion NEC requirements of the Permit.

2. At the time of the inspection, it was unclear whether or not Western States Packaging had conducted an annual NEC evaluation of the by October 1, 2015 as required by the Permit. As stated previously not all permit required records were readily available for review at the time of the inspection. Section XVII.G, Requirements for Annual NEC Coverage Recertification, of the Permit requires Dischargers to “By October 1 of each reporting year beginning in 2015, any Discharger who has previously registered for NEC coverage shall either submit and certify an NEC demonstrating that the facility has been evaluated, and that none of the Industrial Materials or Activities listed above are, or will be in the foreseeable future, exposed to precipitation, or apply for NOI coverage.”
3. Western States Packaging did not maintain a copy of the NEC certification or NEC evaluation checklist readily available for review onsite at the time of the inspection.
4. We observed that Western States Packaging did not include all minimum information on the Facility site map per the Permit. Section X.E.3, Site Map, of the Permit, states Western States Packaging is required to include specific elements on the Facility site map. The following elements were not depicted on the Facility’s onsite copy of the site map provided to us at the time of the inspection:
 - a. We observed that the Facility boundary was not clearly identified on the site map as required by Section X.E.3.a of the Permit. Specifically, the onsite copy of the site map did not include a newly acquired area of the Facility used to store finished goods at Facility bay doors 13274A and 13274B.
 - b. We observed that drainage area and drainage areas impacted by surrounding dischargers was not identified on the site map as required by Section X.E.3.a of the Permit.
 - c. We observed that the municipal storm water conveyances and drains which may receive Facility storm water discharges were not depicted on the site map as required by Section X.E.3.a of the Permit. We observed a Facility storm water runoff discharge point to Daventry Street (Photograph 5).
 - d. We observed that the unloading hose connection transfer areas of raw materials (plastic resin pellets) and the trash and waste dumpster area were not depicted on the site map as required by Section X.E.3.f of the Permit. We observed two

unloading hose connection transfer areas (Photographs 3 and 6), and two dumpsters one of which was uncovered at the Facility (Photographs 4 and 14).

- e. We observed that the finished goods handling area (bay 13274A and 13274B, which appeared to have been recently acquired by Western States Packaging was not identified on the site map as required by Section X.E.3.f of the Permit.

SECTION IV – DOCUMENTS REQUESTED DURING INSPECTION AND ANALYTICAL RESULTS

At the time of the inspection, we requested the NEC, NEC checklist, site map, and NEC annual evaluation records. Note that only the site map was available for review at the time of the inspection. Analytical results were not requested or reviewed because Western States Packaging stated they had not collected any qualifying storm event (QSE) storm water samples since the effective date (July 1, 2015) of the Permit.

SECTION V – LIST OF APPENDICES

Photograph Log



Photograph 1. View of Facility sign.



Photograph 2. View of 1mm mesh screen implemented by the Facility on one of the three storm drain inlets (DP-1, DP-2, and DP-3) located just south of the Facility building in the customer/employee parking lot.



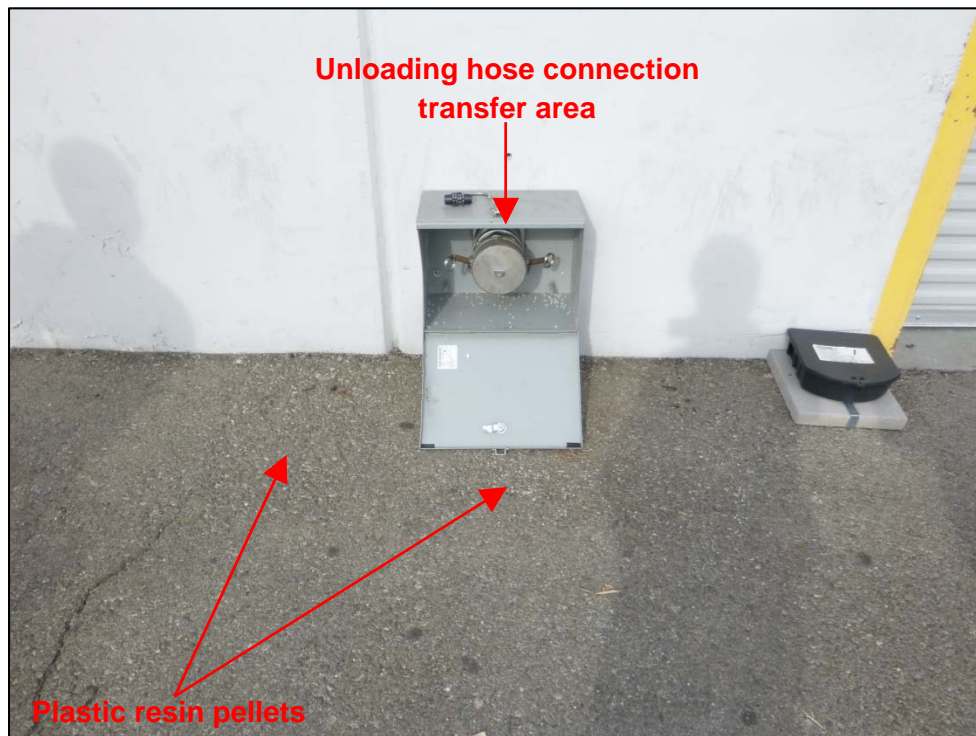
Photograph 3. View of approximate extents of Facility building area. Note the location of the hose connections for the unloading of raw materials (plastic resin pellets).



Photograph 4. View of trash and waste dumpster area located just south of bay 13280A. Note the uncovered waste dumpster.



Photograph 5. View of storm drain inlets (DP-1, DP-2, and DP-3) discharge point onto Daventry Street located south of the Facility.



Photograph 6. View of unloading hose connection transfer area for raw materials (plastic resin pellets) to the Facility located adjacent to bay door 13280B. Note the plastic resin pellets scattered about on the impervious area exposed to storm water.



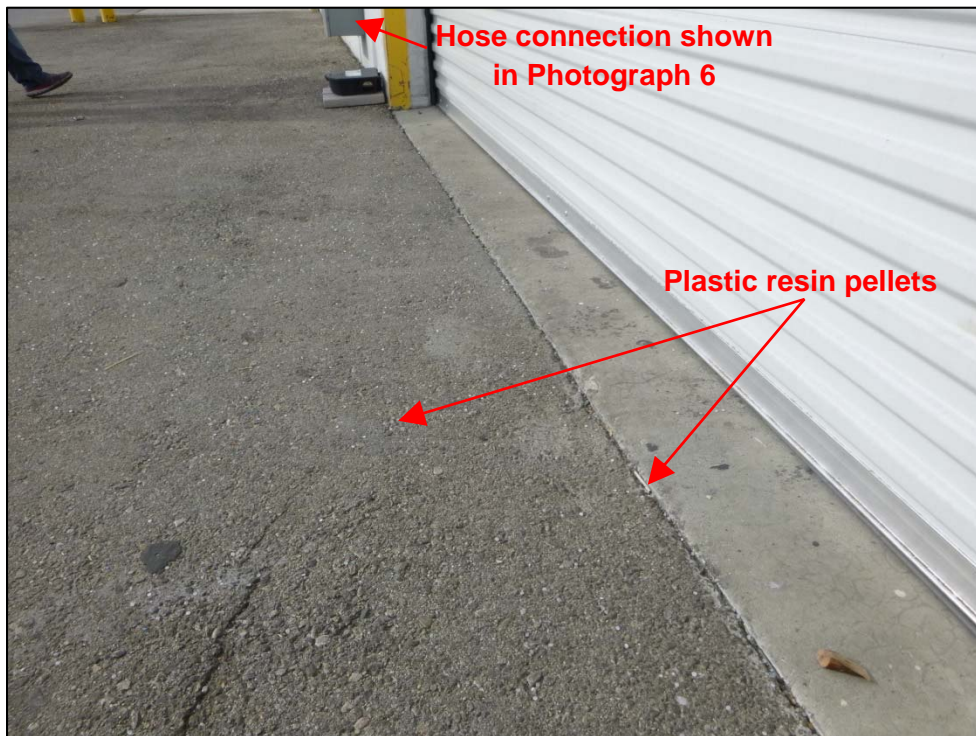
Photograph 7. Close-up view of the hose connection transfer area shown in Photograph 6.



Photograph 8. Close-up view of the Facility raw materials (plastic resin pellets) on the impervious surface adjacent to the hose connection transfer area shown in Photograph 6.



Photograph 9. View of raw materials (plastic resin pellets) scattered about the impervious surfaces downgradient of the Facility building in the customer/employee parking area.



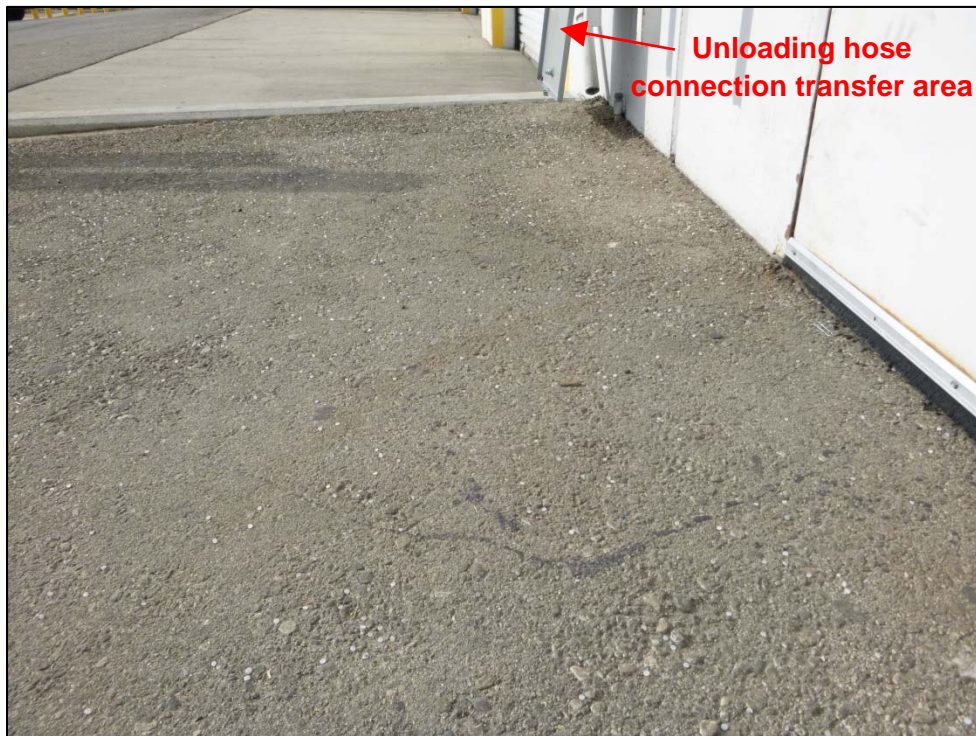
Photograph 10. View of raw materials (plastic resin pellets) on the impervious surfaces adjacent to Facility bay door 13280A.



Photograph 11. Close-up view of plastic resin pellets on the impervious surface adjacent to Facility bay door 13280A, shown in Photograph 11.



Photograph 12. View of raw materials (plastic resin pellets) on the impervious surface adjacent to the Facility bay door 13276A.



Photograph 13. View of raw materials (plastic resin pellets) on the impervious surface adjacent to the unloading hose connection transfer area at Facility bay door 13280A.



Photograph 14. View of uncovered trash and waste dumpster located along the southern perimeter of the customer/employee parking area.



Photograph 15. View of raw materials (plastic resin pellets) on the impervious surface beneath the dumpster, shown in Photograph 14.



Photograph 16. Close-up view of the plastic resin pellets on the impervious surface, shown in Photograph 15.



Photograph 17. View of the contents of the uncovered waste dumpster shown in Photograph 14. Note the raw materials (plastic resin pellets) within the dumpster.



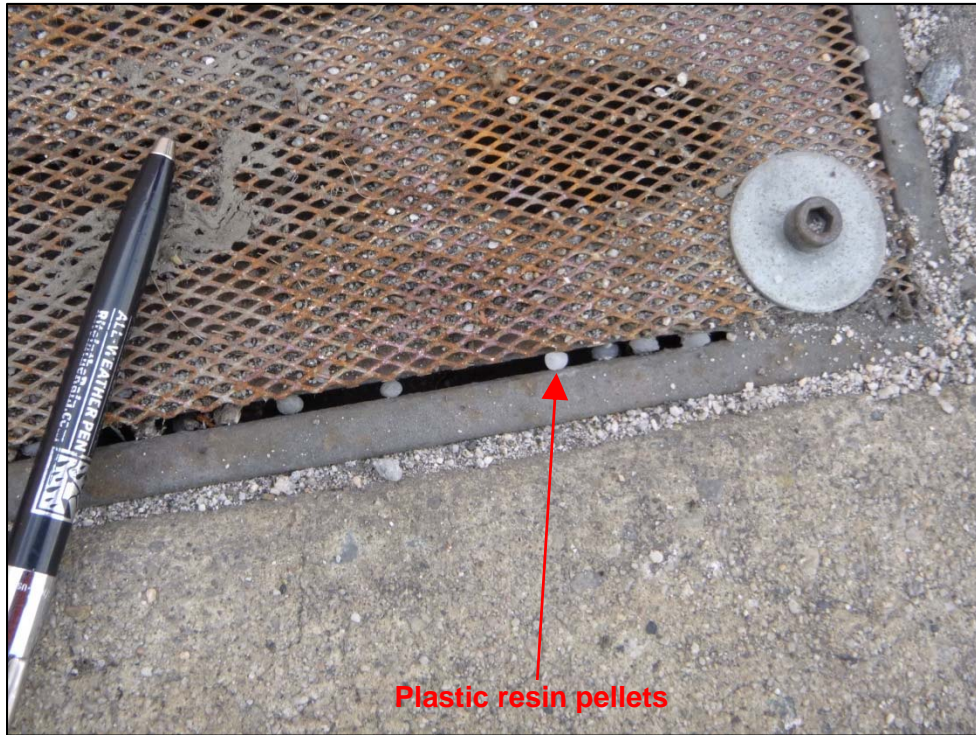
Photograph 18. Close-up view of the plastic resin pellets in the uncovered waste dumpster, shown in Photograph 17.



Photograph 19. View of raw materials (plastic resin pellets) adjacent to the storm drain inlet downgradient of the Facility building along the south side of the customer/employee parking area.



Photograph 20. View of plastic resin pellets on the storm drain inlet grate.



Photograph 21. Close-up view of the plastic resin pellets on the storm drain inlet grate.